

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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The Honorable William Proxmire
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on International Trade,
Finance, and Security Economics
Joint Economic Committee
Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Vice Chairman:

I appreciate your letter of 15 February noting the benefit to many from the studies and briefings concerning the Soviet Union contributed by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to the Joint Economic Committee (JEC).

I have delayed responding to your letter while we gave careful consideration to your request that CIA permit the JEC to publish a collection of recent studies prepared by Agency analysts on the industrial sector of the Soviet economy.

I regret to advise you that the updating and modification of completed studies for this purpose would involve a serious and unacceptable drain on our very limited resources on Soviet industrial sectors. Indeed, the thinness of our resources in this area has made it a high priority for the assignment of new resources provided by the Administration and the Congress in the last two years.

At the same time, your request that some of CIA's work on the Soviet economy be made available more widely follows similar requests and expressions of interest from a variety of scholars as well as individuals in the Executive Branch and the Congress. In recent years, our effort along these lines has included the very time consuming work involved in preparing testimony for the JEC on both the Soviet and Chinese economies. We will continue to participate in the JEC as well as to publish a variety of statistical and reference materials on both the Soviet and Chinese economies. Moreover, this year we will also be publishing our Soviet defense expenditures paper in an unclassified form.



We have serious resource problems relating to publication of unclassified documents beyond this level as well as continuing serious reservations about publishing more of our work where we cannot incorporate the evidential base for our conclusions.

Again, I appreciate your kind words about our work in this area and hope that you will understand our concerns with broader publication of unclassified documents.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence